

Key Concepts			
Shekinah	The dwelling or divine presence of God often shown as a cloud.	Messiah	The promised deliverer of the Jewish nation. The word means ‘anointed one’
Synagogue	A building or place of meeting for worship in the Jewish faith	Covenant	A promise or an agreement. Covenants were made between God, Abraham and Moses.
Shabbat (Sabbath)	The Jewish day of rest and seventh day of the week	Mitzvot	Actions that Jews must perform or avoid. There are 613 including the Ten Commandments
Kosher	Means ‘clean’ or ‘fit’. It describes food that is okay to eat for Jewish people.	Torah	The Jewish written law and the first 5 books of the Hebrew Bible

<p><u>Tanakh & Talmud</u></p> <p>The Tanakh is the Jewish Bible. The name is formed from its three parts. The Torah which is the the Five Books of Moses (Jewish written law). The Neviim which is the Prophets and the Ketuvim, which is the Writings (made up of history, wisdom and history, it includes the Psalms). The Talmud is a commentary made by important Rabbis on the Torah and Tanakh. It gives guidance on the laws and teachings of the Hebrew Bible.</p>

<p><u>Sources of Authority</u></p> <p>“Belief in the divine origin of the Torah (Torah comes directly from God)” Rambam’s 8th Principle</p> <p>“Belief in the immutability of the Torah (the words cannot be changed)” Rambam’s 9th Principle</p> <p>The Talmud provides guidance on many laws from the Torah such as Sabbath laws and laws concerning kosher.</p>

The Tanakh: Torah	The Torah is the most sacred object in Judaism. It takes the form of a written scroll on parchment and it is kept in the Ark in the synagogue. The Torah is written in Hebrew and it is a great honour to be asked to read it. The person reading from the Torah uses a pointing stick called a yad so that the scroll is given respect and not damaged by touch. Orthodox Jews regard the Torah as the literal word of God revealed to Moses at Mount Sinai. The Torah cannot be changed. In Rabbi Moses Maimonides (Ramban) ‘Thirteen Principles of Faith’ he outlines the importance of the Torah.
The Tanakh: Neviim	The Neviim is the second part of the Tanakh and its main purpose is to teach about the history of the Jewish religion . Jews believe the prophets had special knowledge from God. They pass on a message about how God wants Jews to live. Parts of the Neviim are read during synagogue service . Many parts of the Neviim are only read at home or for personal study. The Prophet Isaiah is found in the Neviim and it contains teachings about the Messiah.
The Tanakh: Ketuvim	This is the third section of the Tanakh and includes the Psalms. These are songs of praise to God and in tradition some were written by King David and King Solomon. The psalms have been used in Jewish worship for thousands of years. They are used in communal and private worship . It also includes an overview of Jewish history and tradition.
The Talmud	This is a record of the Oral Tradition and means ‘instruction or learning’ . Tradition says it was given to Moses on Mount Sinai explaining how to interpret the Torah. Over 1000 years later it was written down. The Talmud contains the opinions, teachings and comments of thousands of rabbis on many topics such as law, customs and ethics. Extracts from the Talmud are used in public and private worship and also in the siddur, the Jewish prayer book. However, the Talmud is very difficult and takes years of training to understand. If a Jewish person wants to find an answer to an issue they would consult their rabbi who has trained in reading the Talmud and is an expert. Orthodox Jews are encouraged to study the Talmud .

<p><u>Exam Practice</u></p> <p>c) Explain why the Tanakh and Talmud are important for Jewish people (8)</p>
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